

(b) a nucleic acid molecule that differs from the nucleic acid molecule of (a) in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, and

(c) complements of (a) or (b),

wherein the stringent conditions are hybridization at 65°C in hybridization buffer (3.5x SSC, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% polyvinyl pyrrolidone, 0.02% Bovine Serum Albumin, 2.5mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (pH7), 0.5% SDS, 2mM EDTA); wherein SSC is 0.15M sodium chloride/0.015M sodium citrate, pH7; SDS is sodium dodecyl sulphate; and EDTA is ethylenediaminetetracetic acid.

2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:50.

4. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule codes for a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

5. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule codes for a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6 or SEQ ID NO:51.

E<sup>2</sup> 6. (Thrice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of

(a) a fragment of nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1 having a length of at least 8 nucleotides, and

(b) complements of (a).

E<sup>3</sup> 8. (Twice Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the fragment has a size selected from the group consisting of at least: 10 nucleotides, 12 nucleotides, 14 nucleotides, 16 nucleotides, 18 nucleotides, 20 nucleotides, 22 nucleotides, 24 nucleotides, 26 nucleotides, 28 nucleotides, 30 nucleotides, 50 nucleotides, 75 nucleotides, 100 nucleotides, and 200 nucleotides.

9. (Previously Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the fragment encodes a peptide which is a fragment of a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

10. (Previously Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 8, wherein the fragment encodes a peptide which is a fragment of a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

11. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 operably linked to a promoter.

12. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, operably linked to a promoter.

13. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, operably linked to a promoter.

14. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 11.

15. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 12.

16. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 13.

#### **Remarks**

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended herewith. Support for claim 6 is found in claim 8 as previously pending and in the specification on page 25, lines 1-5.

No new matter has been added.

#### **Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph**

##### **Written Description:**

The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to